

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Serial No. _____

Appn. Filed : _____

Applicant: Stas Gavronsky

Appn. Title: ELECTRO-ACUPUNCTURE DEVICE

Examiner/GAU: _____

Mailed:

Jan 22/02

At: San Carlos, CA

Information Disclosure Statement

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Sir:

Attached is a completed Form PTO-1449 and copies of the pertinent parts of the references cited thereon. Following are comments on references pursuant to Rule 98:

US Patent No. 6,122,547 issued in 2000 to Benja-Athon states that presently, electroacupuncture uses the micron-thick shaft of a metallic needle grasped by a relatively larger alligator clip. Alligator clip is attached to one end of an electrical lead, which, in its turn, is attached to the electrical machine. The connection between crocodile clip and the micron-thick shaft of the acupuncture needle is loose and poor. The crocodile clip is not designed for the purpose of grasping the micron-thin shaft of the acupuncture needle whose diameter is too small to be effectively grasped by the crocodile clip. As a result, unreliable delivery of correct ampere and voltage of the electrical current to the acupuncture needle is common. Second, the contact parts of the crocodile clip, after so many uses, are

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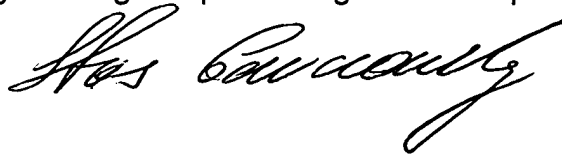
often oxidized rendering the clip ineffective due to a barrier of a layer of nonconductive oxidized matters.

Aforementioned US Patent No. 6,122,547 offers a consolidated electrical-lead acupuncture needle for electroacupuncture and is aimed at prevention of transmission of infectious organisms such as bacteria, virus, and fungus between patients and acupuncturists in electroacupuncture.

Unfortunately, while addressing safety issues, the aforementioned patent offers little help to solve problems related to the weight and, hence, to the mechanical torque which the electrical lead member and the connection means apply to the needle. This torque makes the inserted portion of the needle shift inside the punctured tissues. It causes pain, discomfort, and can sometimes pull the shallowly inserted needle out completely. Furthermore, the usage of the device of the aforementioned patent is limited to "either monopolar pin, monopolar needle, concentric needle electrode or concentric pin electrode".

Thus, the cited reference, which is the only one known to me as a reference relating to the narrow field of my invention, does not disclose, as claimed in my independent Claim 1 with dependent Claims 2-19, an electro-stimulation device for electro-acupuncture procedure that comprises a rigid fin made of a thin metal plate or a foil with electroconductive properties, with a hole on one edge for connection of a lead wire from the electric pulse generator, and with a thickened portion on the other edge having a cap for fitting on the acupuncture needle.

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Sheet _____ of _____

FORM PTO-1449 (Substitute)

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

SERIAL NO.

LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT

FILING DATE

GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	6,122,547	2000	Benja - Athon			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	AL						
	AM						
	AN						
	AO						
	AP						

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AR						
	AS						
	AT						

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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